



August 25, 2014

In 1989 my life changed forever when I was blessed with the privilege of founding one of the most successful and inclusive organizations that support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Best Buddies International is my life's work, and I am proud to say that we currently are operating over 1,700 chapters in all 50 states and 50 countries around the world. Each and every day, these chapters pair people without disabilities with people with a disability to develop lifelong friendships, foster leadership skills and explore employment opportunities. It is with humility in my heart that I tell you that our volunteers contribute what equates to more than \$168 million in services each year.

I have been raised in a family committed to serving all people. As the leader of a major nonprofit organization that serves an underserved population, I am thrilled to say that Comcast Corporation is one of the organizations that generously have supported us. When I learned of the proposed Comcast Corporation and Time Warner Cable transaction, I was excited about how many of our chapters as well as other individuals (with and without disabilities) could gain access to Comcast's civic commitment just as we have here in Miami, if the transaction is approved.

Comcast has partnered with Best Buddies in several ways. The company supports a program that matches buddy participants with mentors through a digital inclusion effort called "e-buddies." This program allows participants to build safe friendships over the Internet while simultaneously developing their computer skills. It's a great and important service we can provide. Comcast also included Best Buddies as part of Comcast Cares Day in 2013, an incredibly rewarding experience. What is most exciting is that both our volunteers and participants got to work alongside Comcast employees to clean Artman Park and Palm Lakes Elementary School in Hialeah, FL. Our Best Buddies participants truly enjoyed having the opportunity to educate the community about their abilities and work alongside their volunteer partners to better their neighborhood.

Best Buddies and Comcast also share a similar mission in providing employment training and opportunities for those with disabilities. The unemployment rate for people with disabilities is 10 times higher than the national average. As an organization that supports this population, we firmly believe that it is our duty to help our participants get and keep jobs. Consistent with the higher level of unemployment amongst those with disabilities, many of our participants similarly do not have access to the Internet. Again, Comcast has been present and aware of this need, not only for people with disabilities, but also for lower-income families as a whole.

It is companies like Comcast that make the work of a nonprofit organization like Best Buddies possible. I am fortunate to have developed such a wonderful partnership with such a civic-minded corporation. It is my hope that the Comcast and Time Warner Cable transaction occurs so that Comcast can continue its civic engagement in more communities across the U.S.

Sincerely,



Anthony Kennedy Shriver